

STRATEGIC PLAN YEAR 1 PROGRESS REPORT

FY2026

FOUNDATION AND DEVELOPMENT

In Fall 2025, Mississippi Delta Community College (MDCC) launched ***Rooted in the Delta, Reaching for the Future, 2025-2030 Strategic Plan***. The plan serves as a framework for institutional decision-making and continuous improvement and advances four strategic priorities aligned with the College's mission:

- **Accessibility** - developing pathways for educational access
- **Campus Climate** - building a culture of belonging, trust, and pride
- **Community Relations** - fostering collaboration and engagement with the community
- **Student Success** - cultivating individualized student growth

MDCC implements its Strategic Plan through cross-functional subcommittees aligned with each strategic priority (listed above). These groups bring together faculty, staff, and other institutional stakeholders to translate the five-year goals into annual objectives, coordinate work across planning units, monitor progress, review data and evidence, identify resources and barriers, and connect strategic priorities to the College's annual effectiveness planning process. This structure promotes shared responsibility and collaboration across departments and is intended to keep the Strategic Plan active in the institution's day-to-day work rather than separate from it.

Year 1 was primarily a foundation-building and early implementation year. The subcommittees moved from the approved strategic goals to specific activities, partnerships, pilots, and planning processes that could begin advancing the plan while also establishing evidence for future decisions. In several areas, the work was intentionally developmental: creating structures, testing approaches, collecting baseline information, and determining what to refine, expand, or implement more fully in Year 2.

The sections that follow highlight Year 1 work within each of the four strategic priorities. For each area, the report summarizes key accomplishments and early evidence, identifies work still in development, and provides a progress rating for the corresponding strategic goals. Together, these sections show both what moved forward during FY2026 and where continued attention will be needed as MDCC advances into Year 2.

INITIATIVE 1: ACCESSIBILITY

Year 1 Accessibility efforts focused on reducing barriers to educational access through flexible scheduling, workforce-aligned programming, and more coordinated approaches to student support. Several of these efforts established a baseline that can be refined and expanded in Year 2.

- Used student feedback to inform shorter-term and more flexible scheduling options intended to improve access.
- Engaged area employers and industry partners to better understand regional workforce needs and inform alignment of Career-Technical, Health Science, and Workforce programs.
- Conducted a faculty-led review of all career-directed programs and made data-informed recommendations regarding future offerings.
- Researched personalized student support team models and enrollment tracking systems to begin improving coordination of communication and services across departments.
- Began developing data systems to inform expansion of holistic student supports, such as healthcare, mental health, and childcare.

YEAR 1 PROGRESS BY STRATEGIC GOAL

Goal	Year 1 Strategic Goal	Progress
1.1	Improve onboarding	★★
1.2	Expand workplace-aligned programs	★★★★
1.3	Enhance course scheduling flexibility	★★★★
1.4	Dedicate support teams to student success	★
1.5	Expand holistic student support services	★★★

Progress scale: ★ = Not Started / Reassessment Needed; ★★ = Off Track; ★★★ = Needs Attention; ★★★★ = Making Strong Progress; ★★★★★ = On Track.

INITIATIVE 2: CAMPUS CLIMATE

Year 1 Campus Climate efforts focused on strengthening the conditions that support trust, belonging, safety, and engagement. The work emphasized governance, student voice, campus safety partnerships, engagement tracking, and stronger feedback processes. Several activities remain in development and will continue to move toward implementation in Year 2.

- Developed a data governance committee, policy, a framework for implementation, and accountability structure to strengthen institutional data practices and trust.
- Established a Trojan Experience student council framework intended to provide additional opportunities for student feedback and engagement.
- Formed partnerships with local law enforcement agencies to begin developing a crime prevention initiative in support of campus events and safety awareness activities.
- Began evaluating technology options to support attendance tracking and better understand participation in institutional events.
- Identified opportunities to strengthen employee and student feedback processes through employee exit and student withdrawal surveys.

YEAR 1 PROGRESS BY STRATEGIC GOAL

Goal	Year 1 Strategic Goal	Progress
2.1	Advance campus belonging and care	★★
2.2	Boost student engagement and leadership	★★
2.3	Establish data governance	★★★★
2.4	Foster connection and empowerment	★★

Progress scale: ★ = Not Started / Reassessment Needed; ★★ = Off Track; ★★★ = Needs Attention; ★★★★ = Making Strong Progress; ★★★★★ = On Track.

INITIATIVE 3: COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Year 1 Community Relations efforts focused on building the infrastructure needed for more consistent alumni, partner, and public engagement. The College developed foundational tools, identified prospective partners, and created processes to support broader, more coordinated engagement in Year 2.

- Developed foundational documents to support alumni chapter creation across MDCC's seven-county service area.
- Drafted community safety resources and awareness materials.
- Created a regional partnership prospect database with more than 120 prospective partners to support future outreach and engagement.
- Developed a partnership engagement toolkit to support campus-community liaison activities.
- Created processes to support collection and promotion of institutional success stories.

YEAR 1 PROGRESS BY STRATEGIC GOAL

Goal	Year 1 Strategic Goal	Progress
3.1	Activate six alumni chapters	★★
3.2	Promote safety and support	★★
3.3	Expand community partnerships	★★★★
3.4	Increase strategic communications	★★
3.5	Broaden and diversify course portfolio	★

Progress scale: ★ = Not Started / Reassessment Needed; ★★ = Off Track; ★★★ = Needs Attention; ★★★★ = Making Strong Progress; ★★★★★ = On Track.

INITIATIVE 4: STUDENT SUCCESS

Year 1 Student Success efforts focused on strengthening student transition to college, academic support, and well-being. Work included redesigning New Student Orientation to be more student- and family-centered, developing the First-Year Experience curriculum, exploring institution-wide tutoring, planning for a Summer Bridge model, and collecting student feedback through the Elevate pilot. Together, these efforts provide a foundation for continued implementation, refinement, and expansion in Year 2.

- Redesigned New Student Orientation in Year 1 to provide a more student- and family-centered experience that introduces students and their families to college life, highlights MDCC's academic programs, student services, resources, and opportunities, and helps students feel more prepared to begin college. As part of the redesigned orientation, the subcommittee piloted a student feedback survey to establish an initial measure of experience and inform future improvements.
 - Among 27 respondents, 22 (81%) rated the experience Excellent, 1 (4%) Very Good, and 4 (15%) Good.
 - Twenty-five students (93%) reported feeling Prepared or Very Prepared to begin classes, and 23 (85%) identified All Sessions as the most helpful orientation experience.
 - These findings provide an initial baseline for refining the orientation experience, expanding the feedback process, and strengthening student and family engagement in Year 2.
- Developed a First-Year Experience (FYE) curriculum focused on campus connection, with associated branding and promotional materials. The First-Year Experience (FYE) supports students as they transition into college by helping them build the skills, connections, and knowledge needed to be successful. FYE connects students to college resources, strengthens academic and personal success skills, and promotes a sense of belonging. Ultimately, the experience supports student persistence, retention, and continued progress toward educational goals.
- Researched options for an institution-wide tutoring framework to serve all students.
- Conducted initial planning and cost analyses for a Summer Bridge program pilot, including staffing, housing, instruction, and participation needs. The Summer Bridge program itself was not implemented in Year 1; this work established the groundwork for future development.
 - Piloted the **Elevate: Life After High School Camp** as a separate, related transition initiative. The weeklong college experience was designed to introduce students to campus life, build college readiness, and support the transition to college. Student feedback was collected to assess the experience and inform future programming.
 - All 12 respondents rated the camp Good or Excellent, and all said they would attend again.
 - Eleven of 12 (92%) said they would recommend the camp to a friend.
 - All respondents agreed or strongly agreed that the activities kept them engaged, while 11 of 12 (92%) agreed or strongly agreed that the camp helped them become more confident.
 - Students most often identified team-building as their favorite activity and described learning related to communication, confidence, ACT preparation, interview skills, and future planning. These results provide an initial baseline for refining the model and expanding transition support in Year 2.

- Expanded assessment of student mental health needs through surveys.
- Sought partnerships and training opportunities to strengthen mental health supports, including Mental Health First Aid training and after-hours support for residential students.

YEAR 1 PROGRESS BY STRATEGIC GOAL

Goal	Year 1 Strategic Goal	Progress
4.1	Implement First-Year Experience program	★
4.2	Provide accessible tutoring	★★★★
4.3	Pilot a Summer Bridge program	★
4.4	Enhance mental health engagement	★★★★

Progress scale: ★ = Not Started / Reassessment Needed; ★★ = Off Track; ★★★ = Needs Attention; ★★★★ = Making Strong Progress; ★★★★★ = On Track.

OVERALL YEAR 1 SUMMARY

Year 1 moved ***Rooted in the Delta, Reaching for the Future*** from planning into implementation. Across Accessibility, Campus Climate, Community Relations, and Student Success, the four Strategic Planning subcommittees translated long-term goals into annual work by strengthening partnerships, developing structures and processes, piloting selected approaches, and gathering evidence to guide decisions. This has resulted in a stronger foundation for measurable progress and continuous improvement across the five-year plan.

Progress varied by goal, reflecting the different stages of the work. Some priorities moved into implementation, while others required research, infrastructure development, partnership building, or additional planning. New Student Orientation and Elevate show how Year 1 pilots generated baseline information that can strengthen the student experience, refine programming, expand participation, and improve how outcomes are measured over time.

In FY27, MDCC will build on this foundation through Year 2 objectives led by the four subcommittees and connected planning units. The next phase will emphasize moving developmental work into implementation, expanding promising approaches, aligning strategic objectives with Annual Plans and resource decisions, and using quarterly reviews to identify barriers and make timely adjustments. The College will review subcommittee progress through its institutional effectiveness process and share it with executive leadership to support institutional decision-making, resource allocation, and continuous improvement. Ongoing reporting will reinforce transparency and shared accountability.